

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE United States Patent and Trademark Office Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 www.uspio.gov

NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

7590

09/20/2004

FOLEY & LARDNER 3000 K STREET NW SUITE 500 PO BOX 25696 WASHINGTON, DC 200078696

EXAMINER			
CROUCH, DE	BORAH		
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER		
1632	1/		
DATE MAILED: 09/20/2004	16		

APPLICATION NO. FILING DATE		FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
08/443,184	05/17/1995	WILLIAM H. VELANDER	30523/125	3827

TITLE OF INVENTION: TRANSGENIC NON-HUMAN MAMMALS PRODUCING FIBRINOGEN INTHEIR MILK

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE	PUBLICATION FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	YES	\$665	\$0	\$665	12/20/2004

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. <u>PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED</u>. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE REFLECTS A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE APPLIED IN THIS APPLICATION. THE PTOL-85B (OR AN EQUIVALENT) MUST BE RETURNED WITHIN THIS PERIOD EVEN IF NO FEE IS DUE OR THE APPLICATION WILL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

- A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above
- B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

- A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or
- B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.
- II. PART B FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL should be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Even if the fee(s) have already been paid, Part B Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and returned. If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted.
- III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: Mail

Mail Stop ISSUE FEE **Commissioner for Patents** P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

(703) 746-4000 or <u>Fax</u>

INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission. CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address) 09/20/2004 7590 Certificate of Mailing or Transmission
I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (703) 746-4000, on the date indicated below. **FOLEY & LARDNER** 3000 K STREET NW SUITE 500 PO BOX 25696 WASHINGTON, DC 200078696 (Depositor's name) (Signature) (Date) ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. APPLICATION NO. FILING DATE FIRST NAMED INVENTOR CONFIRMATION NO. 08/443,184 05/17/1995 WILLIAM H. VELANDER 30523/125 3827 TITLE OF INVENTION: TRANSGENIC NON-HUMAN MAMMALS PRODUCING FIBRINOGEN INTHEIR MILK ISSUE FEE **PUBLICATION FEE** TOTAL FEE(S) DUE DATE DUE APPLN. TYPE SMALL ENTITY YES \$665 12/20/2004 nonprovisional \$0 \$665 **EXAMINER** ART UNIT CLASS-SUBCLASS CROUCH, DEBORAH 1632 800-007000 1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363). 2. For printing on the patent front page, list (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys ☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached. or agents OR, alternatively, (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed. "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. Use of a Customer Number is required. 3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type) PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment. (A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE (B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY) Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent): ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government 4a. The following fee(s) are enclosed: 4b. Payment of Fee(s): ☐ Issue Fee A check in the amount of the fee(s) is enclosed. Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted) Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached. The Director is hereby authorized by charge the required fec(s), or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number ______ (enclose an extra copy of this form). Advance Order - # of Copies 5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above) a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. ☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2). The Director of the USPTO is requested to apply the Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if any) or to re-apply any previously paid issue fee to the application identified above. NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office. Authorized Signature Date Typed or printed name Registration No. This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.



United States Patent and Trademark Office

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE United States Patent and Trademark Office Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.	
08/443,184 05/17/1995		WILLIAM H. VELANDER	30523/125	3827	
75	7590 09/20/2004		EXAM	EXAMINER	
FOLEY & LARDNER			CROUCH, DEBORAH		
3000 K STREET N SUITE 500	IW		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
PO BOX 25696			1632	V - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 	
WASHINGTON, DC 200078696			DATE MAILED: 09/20/200	4	

Determination of Patent Term Extension or Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b)

(application filed prior to June 8, 1995)

This patent application was filed prior to June 8, 1995, thus no Patent Term Extension or Adjustment applies.

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (703) 305-1383. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at (703) 305-8283.



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE United States Patent and Trademark Office Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.		
08/443,184	05/17/1995	WILLIAM H. VELANDER	30523/125	3827		
7590 09/20/2004 .		. EXAM	EXAMINER			
FOLEY & LARDNER 3000 K STREET NW			CROUCH,	CROUCH, DEBORAH		
SUITE 500	' ' '.		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER		
PO BOX 25696			1632			
WASHINGTON, DC 200078696			DATE MAILED: 09/20/200	4		

Notice of Fee Increase on October 1, 2004

If a reply to a "Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due" is filed in the Office on or after October 1, 2004, then the amount due will be higher than that set forth in the "Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due" because some fees will increase effective October 1, 2004. See Revision of Patent Fees for Fiscal Year 2005; Final Rule, 69 Fed. Reg. 52604, 52606 (May 10, 2004).

The current fee schedule is accessible from WEB site (http://www.uspto.gov/main/howtofees.htm).

If the fee paid is the amount shown on the "Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due" but not the correct amount in view of the fee increase, a "Notice of Pay Balance of Issue Fee" will be mailed to applicant. In order to avoid processing delays associated with mailing of a "Notice of Pay Balance of Issue Fee," if the response to the Notice of Allowance is to be filed on or after October 1, 2004 (or mailed with a certificate of mailing on or after October 1, 2004), the issue fee paid should be the fee that is required at the time the fee is paid. See Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), Section 1306 (Eighth Edition, Rev. 2, May 2004). If the issue fee was previously paid, and the response to the "Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due" includes a request to apply a previously-paid issue fee to the issue fee now due, then the difference between the issue fee amount at the time the response is filed and the previously-paid issue fee should be paid. See MPEP Section 1308.01.

Effective October 1, 2004, 37 CFR 1.18 is amended by revising paragraphs (a) through (c) to read as set forth below.

Section 1.18 Patent post allowance (including issue) fees.

(a) Issue fee for issuing each original or reissue patent, except a design or plant patent:

(b) Issue fee for issuing a design patent:

(c) Issue fee for issuing a plant patent:

By other than a small entity.....\$660.00

Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at (703) 305-8283.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	08/443,184	VELANDER ET AL.	
Notice of Allowability	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Deborah Crouch, Ph.D.	1632	
The MAILING DATE of this communication appearance All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RI of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313	(OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this or other appropriate communica IGHTS. This application is subject	application. If not includ tion will be mailed in due	ed course. THIS
1. This communication is responsive to <u>paper no. 17</u> .			
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are <u>96-133</u> .			
3. The drawings filed on are accepted by the Examine	r.		
 4.	e been received. been received in Application Not cuments have been received in the of this communication to file a real lent of this application. itted. Note the attached EXAMIN as reason(s) why the oath or decist be submitted. it be submitted. it be submitted. it or Patent Drawing Review (Patent Drawing Review) it is Amendment / Comment or in the leader according to 37 CFR 1.1 is it of BIOLOGICAL MATERIA	his national stage applicately ply complying with the research of laration is deficient. FO-948) attached e Office action of laration in the front (not the 21(d). L must be submitted.	quirements IOTICE OF
Attachment(s) 1. ☑ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/0 Paper No./Mail Date 4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material	6. Interview Summ. Paper No./Mail 8), 7. Examiner's Ame	Date	

#16/0

Application/Control Number: 08/443,184

Art Unit: 1632

Page 2

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ms. Jayme Huleatt on August 10, 2004.

- 1. Please cancel claims 74-95.
- 2. Please insert the following claims:
- 1 -26. A method for producing biologically active fibrinogen comprising:

providing a transgenic non-human mammal whose genome comprises a first DNA segment encoding a first DNA encoding a heterologous fibrinogen $A\alpha$ chain, a second DNA segment encoding a second DNA encoding a heterologous fibrinogen $B\beta$ chain, and a third DNA segment encoding a third DNA encoding a heterologous fibrinogen γ chain, wherein each chain is derived from the same species, and wherein each of said first, second and third segments is operably linked to a cis-acting, expression promoter-containing regulatory sequence required for its expression in a mammary gland of a female transgenic non-human mammal;

allowing the expression of said first, second and third DNA segments and the production of milk containing biologically active fibrinogen in said female mammal; collecting milk from said female mammal; and recovering the biologically active fibrinogen from the milk.

- 7-97. The method according to claim 96, wherein said transgenic non-human mammal is selected from the group consisting of a rodent, rabbit, sheep, pig, goat and cattle.
- 3 98. The method according to claim 97, wherein said transgenic non-human mammal is a sheep.
- 99. The method according to claim 96, wherein said transgenic non-human mammal is a cow.



Art Unit: 1632

The method according to claim 96, wherein said promoter to which each of

Page 3

said first, second and third DNA segments is operably linked is selected from the group consisting of casein, β -lactoglobulin, α -lactalbumin and whey acidic protein gene promoters.

6 101. The method according to claim 160, wherein said promoter is a β lactoglobulin promoter.

The method according to claim 100, wherein said promoter is a casein promoter.

The method according to claim 100, wherein said promoter is a whey acidic protein gene promoter.

9 204. The method according to claim 96, wherein said fibrinogen is human fibrinogen.

105. The method according to claim 96, wherein said first, second, and third DNA segments comprises an intron.

A method for producing biologically active fibrinogen comprising: providing a first DNA segment encoding a heterologous fibrinogen $A\alpha$ chain, a second DNA segment encoding a heterologous fibrinogen Bβ chain; and a third DNA segment encoding a heterologous fibrinogen γ chain, wherein each chain is from the same species, and wherein each of said first, second and third segments is operably linked to a promoter-containing regulatory sequence required for its expression in the mammary gland of a female transgenic non-human mammal;

introducing said DNA segments into a fertilized egg of a non-human mammalian species heterologous to the species of origin of said fibrinogen chains;

inserting said egg into an oviduct or uterus of a female of said mammalian species to obtain a transgenic non-human mammal whose genome comprises said DNA segments;

Art Unit: 1632

Page 4

breeding said mammal to produce female progeny that express said first, second and third DNA segments and produce milk containing biologically active fibrinogen encoded by said segments;

collecting milk from said female progeny; and recovering the biologically active fibrinogen from the milk.

107. The method according to claim 106, wherein said transgenic non-human mammal is selected from the group consisting of a rodent, rabbit, sheep, pig, goat and cattle.

The method according to claim 196, wherein said species into which said DNA segments is introduced is a sheep.

The method according to claim 106, wherein said species into which said DNA segments is introduced is a cow.

110. The method according to claim 106, wherein said non-human mammal is a cow.

The method according to claim 106, wherein said first, second, and third DNA segments comprises an intron.

The method according to claim 106, wherein each of said first, second and third DNA segments is operably linked to a transcription promoter selected from the group consisting of casein, β -lactoglobulin, α -lactalbumin and whey acidic protein gene promoters.

A method according to claim 106, wherein said first, second and third DNA segments are expressed under the control of a β -lactoglobulin promoter.

The method according to claim 106, wherein said first, second and third DNA segments are expressed under the control of a casein promoter.

Art Unit: 1632

Page 5

The method according to claim 106, wherein said first, second and third DNA segments are expressed under the control of a whey acidic protein gene promoter.

 \mathcal{N} 116. The method according to claim 106, wherein said introducing step comprises injecting said first, second and third DNA segments into a pronucleus of said fertilized egg.

The method according to claim 106, wherein said fibrinogen is human fibrinogen.

The method according to claim 106, wherein said introducing step comprises injecting said first, second and third DNA segments into a pronucleus of a fertilized egg and inserting said egg into an oviduct of a pseudopregnant female to produce a female transgenic non-human mammal whose genome comprises said DNA segments, wherein said egg and said pseudopregnant female are of the same species.

2+ HS.

The method of claim 418, wherein said female mammal is a sheep.

W 120.

The method of claim 148, wherein said female mammal is a cow.

20 121. A transgenic non-human mammal, wherein the genome of said mammal comprises:

- a first DNA segment encoding a heterologous fibrinogen $A\alpha$ chain,
- a second DNA segment encoding a heterologous fibrinogen $B\boldsymbol{\beta}$ chain,
- a third DNA segment encoding a heterologous fibrinogen γ chain, and further wherein each chain is derived from the same species and is operably linked to a promoter-containing regulatory sequence required for its expression in the mammary gland of a host female mammal, wherein expression of said DNA segments results in the production of recoverable quantities of biologically active fibrinogen from milk of a female of said non-human mammal.

27

The non-human transgenic mammal according to claim 121, wherein said non-human mammal is selected from the group consisting of a rodent, rabbit, sheep, pig, goat and cattle.

Art Unit: 1632

Page 6

246

123. The non-human transgenic mammal according to claim 122, wherein said non-human mammal is a sheep.

124. The non-human transgenic mammal according to claim 121, wherein said non-human mammal is a cow.

The non-human transgenic mammal according to claim 121, wherein each of said first, second and third DNA segments is operably linked to a transcription promoter selected from the group consisting of casein, β -lactoglobulin, α -lactalbumin and whey acidic protein gene promoters.

The non-human transgenic mammal according to claim 121, wherein said first, second and third DNA segments are expressed under the control of a β -lactoglobulin promoter.

The non-human transgenic mammal according to claim 121, wherein said first, second and third DNA segments are expressed under the control of a casein promoter.

The non-human transgenic mammal according to claim 121, wherein said first, second and third DNA segments are expressed under the control of a whey acidic protein gene promoter.

The non-human mammal produced according to claim 121, wherein said mammal is female.

The non-human mammal produced according to claim 121, wherein said mammal is male.

A process for producing a transgenic non-human mammal comprising: providing a first DNA segment encoding a first DNA encoding a heterologous fibrinogen $A\alpha$ chain, a second DNA segment encoding a second DNA encoding a heterologous fibrinogen $B\beta$ chain, and a third DNA segment encoding a third DNA

Art Unit: 1632

encoding a heterologous fibrinogen γ chain, wherein each chain is derived from the same species, and wherein each of said first, second and third segments is operably linked to a promoter-containing regulatory sequence required for its expression in a mammary gland of a host female mammal;

introducing said DNA segments into a fertilized egg of a non-human species heterologous to the species of origin of said fibrinogen chains;

inserting said fertilized egg into an oviduct or uterus of a female of said mammalian species; and

allowing said fertilized egg to develop thereby producing a transgenic non-human mammal whose genome comprises said first, second and third DNA segments, wherein female progeny of said mammal express said DNA segments in a mammary gland to produce biologically active fibrinogen in recoverable quantities in the milk of said female progeny.

7]32.

The process according to claim 121, wherein said mammal is female.

26

The process according to claim 131, wherein said mammal is male. -

3. The title has been changed to -Transgenic non-human mammals producing fibrinogen in their milk--.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Reasons for allowance:

Claims 96-133 are free of the prior art because at the time of filing, the art did not teach nor suggest transgenic non-human mammals whose genome comprised a first DNA segment encoding a heterologous fibrinogen $A\alpha$ chain, a second DNA segment encoding a heterologous fibrinogen $B\beta$ chain; and a third DNA segment encoding a heterologous fibrinogen $B\beta$ chain; and a third DNA segment encoding a heterologous fibrinogen $B\beta$ chain; and a third DNA segment encoding a heterologous fibrinogen $B\beta$ chain; and a third DNA segment encoding a heterologous fibrinogen $B\beta$ chain; and a third DNA segment encoding a heterologous fibrinogen and third segments is operably linked to additional DNA segments required for expression in the mammary gland to produce recoverable quantities of biologically active fibrinogen in the milk of said mammals. The claims are nonobvious because transgenic mammal production is unpredictable in expressing DNA sequences sufficiently to produce fibrinogen peptides in the correct quantities to cause formation of biologically active fibrinogen within a mammary gland cell. Further, the claims are fully enabled as the specific examples in the claims demonstrated that transgenic mice produced according to the present disclosure made recoverable quantities of biologically active human fibrinogen in their milk (specification, page 27, Table 2, to page 29 and page 45-47).

Page 7

Art Unit: 1632

Page 8

Claims 96-133 are distinct from the count in interference 104,242. Naturally occurring fibrinogen does not contain a leader peptide to direct its passage through the endoplasm reticulum (Danishefsky et al (1990), page 207, col. 2, parag. 1, lines 1-5). Fibrinogen assembles in the endoplasmic reticulum into a functional symmetrical dimmer of three polypeptides (Roy et al (1991), page 4762, col. 1, parag. 5, lines 3-7). Thus, claims 74-95, which do not require a signal sequence or leader peptide associated with the fibrinogen peptides, are distinguished from the count.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Deborah Crouch, Ph.D. whose telephone number is 571-272-0727. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th, 8:30 AM to 7:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Amy Nelson can be reached on 571-272-0408. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Deborah Crouch, Ph.D. Primary Examiner Art Unit 1632

August 19, 2004